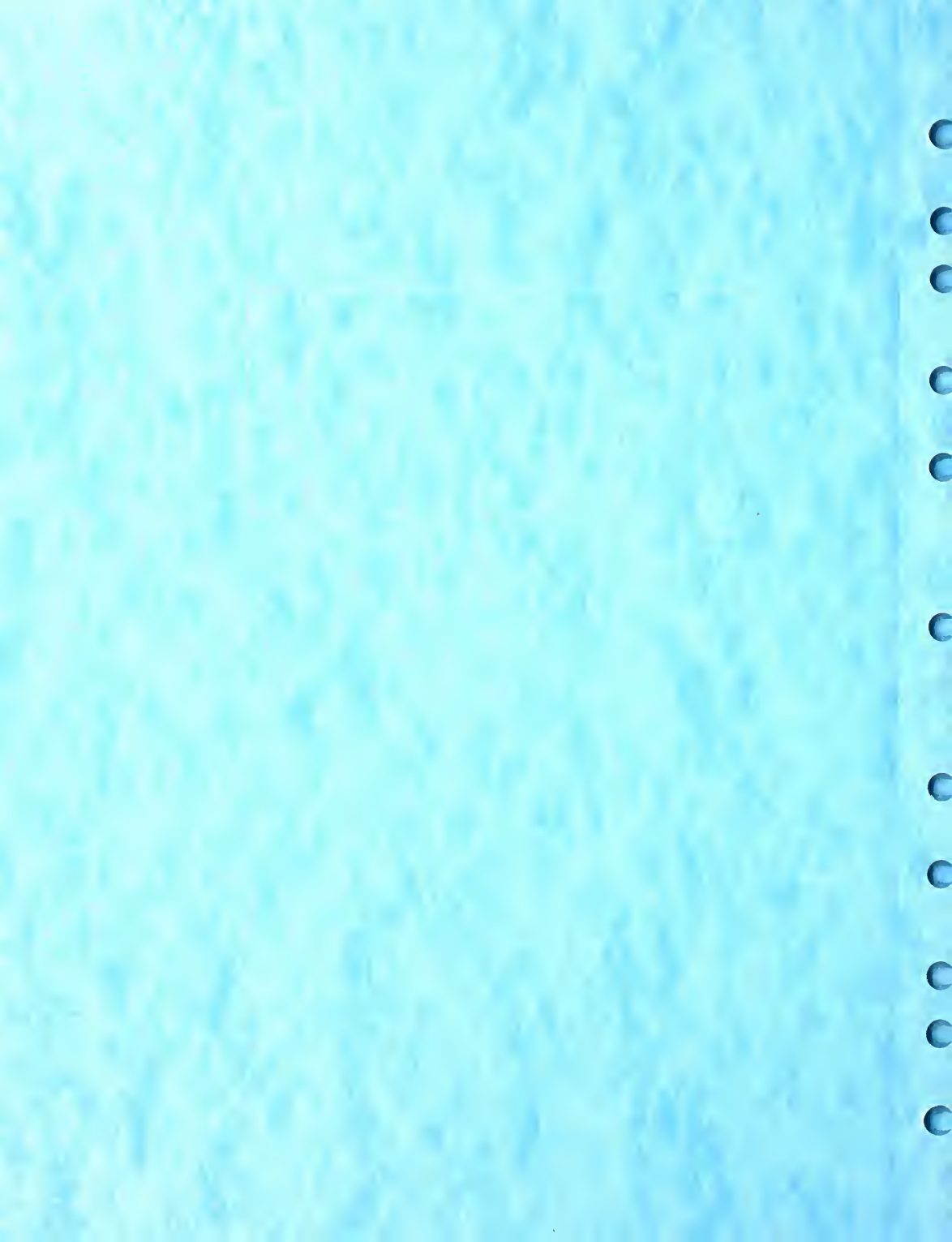


ALACHUA PORTRAIT FORUM #4



"ALACHUA PORTRAIT: The Living Heritage Project"

Sponsored by the Florida Endowment for the Humanities,  
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ALACHUA PORTRAIT FORUM #4

"LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

September 15, 1983

VOICES IN ORDER OF SPEAKING

AB: Allan Burns, Ph.D., Humanities Consultant  
RC: Ralph Cellon, Jr., Panelist (humorous monologue about local government) -former city and county commissioner; farmer/rancher/contractor  
TC: Tim Check, Panel Moderator - City of Gainesville Safety Officer  
S: Rod Smith, Panelist-local attorney  
M: Rodger Mallard, Panelist-former City Commissioner/Mayor; Emergency Medical Technician  
L: Tommy Langord, Panelist - city employee and son of former city manager  
E: Bill Enneis, Sr., panelist - ENNEIS MOTOR COMPANY  
NS: Neil Sherouse, panelist-Pastor, First Baptist Church of Alachua  
H: Evelyn Holland, Speaker in audience-Mayor/Commissioner, City of Alachua  
P: Marion Pettit, speaker in audience-local CPA, Former candidate for state senator  
W: Ozell Williams, speaker in audience  
JB: Judi Baker, speaker in audience  
WC: Wallace Cain, speaker in audience-Realtor/ City Commissioner  
BH: Blanche Hill, panelist-high school teacher  
MH: Mary Hipp, speaker in audience, local businesswoman  
I: Buddy Irby, speaker from audience-Supervisor of Elections, Alachua County

Due to the limitations inherent in transcribing these audio tapes, there may be misspellings of proper names and geographic locations. The language has been reproduced as accurately as possible, however, there were some problems with the quality of the sound.

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AB: Mr. Ralph Cellon is going to give a humorous monologue about the history of local government in Alachua.

RC: Thank you very much. Sudy called and said she needed some old-timer in the community to reflect on some of the things that had happened before and in some sort of way to semi-roast some of the public officials that have been here so long. I am pleased to be associated with you, Sudy, and to be called on. We are not all that much different in age and I have held mine a lot better than she has. But I am not that much older. Bill Enneis is old folks. Incidentally, I talked to Bill today, in trying to prepare some of the things that I was going to say here. Now, in view of the time, I am gonna skip from about 1910 up to about 1955. But there are some things that happened and some of the early history of our community and, by the early history of our community, I mean, before these folks started coming here with these Volkswagons and getting these government checks and all. (Laughter.) We used to be a real nice community here.

But back in those days, we had what amounted to sort of a benevolent group who were the city commission or fathers of the community or whatever, who mostly told us what was good for us. They mostly did a pretty good job of taking care of our needs and some of those names are on these walls and some of you in this audience are related. Some of those people that were helpful in the early years included, as I mentioned, Bill Enneis, his father was among that group. Mr. Hobbs is named in numerous places as the city manager. Mr. Hobbs had a real positive influence on this community in the early years. My great-grandfather goes back to that period, W. C. Hague. There were some references to Mr. J. P. Mobley who some of you will remember as a kind of person who was the county engineer until the county engineer had to have credentials. But he had a lot of sense. He could run things and you could call on him to get things accomplished. He was an acting city manager here for a period of time. Some of the good things that happened during that period of time was the building of the ice plant on its present location.

But I would like to move sort of quickly to the semi-modern era of about 1955 on. Some names like George Duke, Dr. Thigpen, Preacher Copeland, Noel Megahee, and there is that W. H. Enneis again. Now there are three W. H. Enneises and the one I am talking about is this old man here, with the shiny head, sitting by the younger fellow with the shiny head. [referring to Buddy Irby, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections.] He is a hometown man who served on our commission here for some twenty-five or thirty years. I am not sure how long. These four men had the unique qualities of being able to stay in office for a fairly long time. It has been told to me that the way they stayed in office was because they did a good job. Now I would like to share with you [that] that is not entirely correct. The way they did that was Bill Enneis, his father, and later his son, had the Ford Agency here, and back in the early and middle 1950s, everybody bought a Ford automobile and consequently, most of these folks owed them. That is conducive to demanding that you



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do certain things. Among those was, Bill liked the prestige and the big pay and all those things that went with being the city commissioner. Incidentally, I learned in later years while serving on the commission, that we had this little thing that not a lot of folks knew about at the time. The city commissioners had a different electric rate and that was the only compensation they got. Now the problem with that was, when I got on the commission, I had four children and they took a lot of baths. By letting me take the ten per cent discount, I would make more money doing it the way everybody else did than in getting the rebate that the commission did. Now whoever figured that out was somebody like Bill Enneis who is stingy and did not use a lot of electricity. We changed that in about the late 1960s, when that got exposed. Probably some investigative reporter found out.

Dr. Thigpen was probably the nicest one of those five gentlemen. George Duke, I wish he was here tonight, and I loved him to death and he knows it, but George Duke has not got all the finest qualities in the world. Now, some of you all think he is a fine gentleman. I am among that group but he has also got some characteristics, way back yonder, that some of you all did not know about, like cockfighting and a few things. But he was a major employer in this community and, consequently, he was able to kind of dictate what happened in some areas and he kept his job.

Preacher Copeland was, I do not know exactly what they called Preacher Copeland up there, but the Church of Christ had its little group and I hope there are some of you here because, I probably need a disclaimer before I keep going much further. I have been sued for one million dollars for calling somebody a pimp. I have learned my lesson about that. Fortunately, I did not have to pay the million dollars. But my insurance has gone up since then. So I want to say that all these things I am saying about these people was told to me by other folks and I hope you will take it in the vein that it is intended here.

Preacher Copeland was the Grand Potentate or whatever. He really was not a pastor but he was the man in charge. He signed the checks up there at the Copeland Sausage Company for a long time and he got up in the pulpit and led them and did the preaching and he told them everything they needed to know and he was a jolly good guy. Now these other folks, Noel Megahee was one of those same kind and, for those of you who do not know, Noel Megahee was one of the principals in the Copeland Sausage Company and a very strong businessman and we were fortunate to have him in this community for a number of years until he sold out his interest, moved to Gainesville and later died. Noel was a good businessman but he also had little selfish motive there. He wanted to be darn sure that [a] the electric rates did not go up at Copeland Sausage Company. The way you do that is keep somebody on the commission and the way you keep somebody on the commission from Copeland Sausage Company is tell them, "Hey! You all want to work, stuff them chitlins and make them sausages and all that? Well this is who you vote for." So those guys kept



their jobs.

Now we kind of screwed that up along about the time that Bob Hitchcock came along. He did not fit that mold anyway and one or two died, so here is a younger, more progressive kind of guy that gets elected and Bob really wanted to serve until he found out that he could make some votes up here that would make the people trade with McDaniel's, instead of him. After he discovered that, well he decided that he did not really have to have this job. Grady Alday is another one that I have checked here that it is probably appropriate that we say something about. We had a system where the mayor was the judge. Now, some of you may have been before the judge. The mayor was the municipal judge and we had this little deal here where we would get Bob Owens or Bob Wells or somebody to arrest enough of them so we could have court. That would take in fifteen dollars if they where drunk and disorderly and ten dollars if they were speeding and if they had not fed their dog, whatever we could find. We needed to generate enough funds to pay off and so on, and among the things we had to pay off, was the Judge. The Judge got two dollars for each one of those cases. (Laughter) Now some of you may not have known that but, that is really the only reason that Bob Cato wanted to be on the commission. Where I got that from was Grady, because Grady did not want to be tangled up with them folks. You know, he was too prim and proper and he did not want to get his hands dirty in the court, so he let Bob do it for him and get the two dollars. Grady got so important, but he was one of those Copeland Sausage Folks, you will see all through here we got one of them everywhere, you know. We had to go from Preacher Copeland and then Noel and then Grady and then Jay, and we kept one right on. But, anyway, Grady served well and with distinction for a long time but he did it sort of removed. If there was a big, controversial issue, he would have to be in Miami that night.

Mel Phillips was another one. Some of you probably never heard of that rascal. But Mel Phillips was in the Oliver dealership down here. Well, anybody who would sell an Oliver Tractor, they could not be trusted anyway. He did not last very long according to our records. He wanted to be on there to create a little business for himself and he got to be a Baptist Deacon for the same reason. We kicked him out of town then and he moved on to someplace else. I am not sure where. But he was on there for awhile for a real good reason. He resigned in the middle of the year. Now, that was not because we had an audit or anything, I am not really sure why he resigned in the middle of the year. But we had a special election and one Ralph W. Celson, Jr., was elected on September twelfth, nineteen sixty-three. Boy! Was that a fine day for this community. A lot of things happened because of that guy and I want you to remember that.

I am hurrying here because I am watching that clock and I am really talking to much but I sure want to get to Wallace Cain and James Lewis and some of those rascals that you got here now. I talked James Lewis into running for the commission. I have left



the city commission and got elected to the county commission. I thought we ought to have a Ralph Cellon type. James Lewis was as near that as I could find. Now, I was not really the king maker, but I thought I was. If I had known all those things were true that Carol Turner said about him here the other night, I would of never helped him get elected, I will tell you that. But I should of been a little bit suspect, because a guy that starts off selling fertilizer and then pretty soon owns the company, you ought to watch out about that a little bit. I had some other experiences with him and I would have to sell a section of land every year to pay my bills. He usually wound up buying the section of land. I never figured all that out until Carol Turner brought that to my attention the other night. Wallace Cain is a good example of, if you cannot whip them the first time, try, try, try again. What happened was, he just had poor opposition (Rodge Mallard) the last time. (laughter) He is an intelligent fellow with a big ego and would sure like to be back on there some time, I am sure. I would like to say one or two things about what you really asked me to say and that is that over the years I think we have been quite fortunate for a community this size to have the leadership that we have had.

One little tiny example was brought to my attention today as a matter of fact, about some of the kinds of creative financing that was done earlier. Some of the things that was done on your behalf to make this a better community than it was previously. No I am not one of those kind of folks that say that everything we did in the good days was better and so on. We have some competent, capable people today and I am pleased that we got a knee-jerk liberal that came from Dade County (REFERS TO THEN MAYOR EVELYN HOLLAND) in her little Volkswagon to be the mayor and help the people. (laughter) I am proud of that. We got some of those kind of folks helping us today to do some of the kinds of things that Preacher Copeland and the Bill Enneises and Bob Hitchcocks have done before and I think we are fortunate in that regard. I think we got a great community. I do not want to see you all screw it up. I am gonna stay around here and try to help you keep it straight.

AB: Trying to draw some conclusions out of all that, it seems that preachers, Copeland Sausage, and the Ford Dealership have been important. I think one thing we can see is some diversity in what the city is made up of and I think that is a strength of any town to have a diverse group of people who are on the commission who are running local government, who are interested in local government. At this time, I would like to turn the forum over to Tim Check who will introduce our panel and city commissioners who are here and some other people in the audience.

TC: I would like to recognize some special people who are in the audience tonight: Mrs. Evelyn Holland: mayor/city commissioner/writer; Wallace Cain: businessman/city commissioner; Mr. Bill Enneis: businessman/former long-term city commissioner; and Mr. Buddy Irby, who is the Alachua County Elections Supervisor. Later on in the program, we are going to



have Buddy talk a little bit, if we can, about his old-time precinct book. Special guest tonight is "Miss Alachua" Miss Hipp. We do not have to introduce Ralph any more since he is well known and is a very articulate speaker and told very interesting true stories about Alachua. Far right, Mr. Rod Smith: attorney/rancher, and anything else. If you have any problems..... see Rod. Rodger Mallard: former mayor/commissioner of the City of Alachua, fireman, EMT, and good friend of the community. Tommy Langford, long-term city employee in the utilities department. Being that he is such a young guy, I have a hard time trying to understand how he could know all these fantastic little tales out of the past. Reverend Neil Sherouse, Minister from the First Baptist Church, and Mrs. Blanche Hill, long-time teacher in the City of Alachua.

Each one of the panelists has a slightly different topic that we are going to address. We will spend a few minute talking about each one and that way, we are going to get a chance to find out all different aspects of city government, how it has affected your life, how you affect the make-up of the city commission. After that point in time, we would like to get a little bit of interchange of ideas, questions and answers from the audience to the panelists, in particular, or any of the panelists. Leading right off, Rod is going to speak about some of the strange, kooky kinky little ordinances on the books in the city.

RS: Thank you. I think it is appropriate that I was selected for this panel. On the way in, I asked Blanche Hill if she knew much about local government, because I do not. She said, "Well, I always rely on you." I thought we ought to be able to put a lot into this program. [So,] I was asked to look into the legal basis for the city. I assumed that the city was legal and proceeded from that assumption.

For those of you who do not know, this city operates under a code of ordinances and a charter. I throw that out to the group collectively and for Wallace specifically, to be used as the need may see fit. The charter basically is the document which operates the city. Our charter has been largely unchanged and is very much like all other municipal charters of small towns throughout the United States and in particular, in Florida. It basically adopts all of those kind of general and enabling, empowering words and phrases.

What it basically does is say we will operate the city under a city management form of government. This is not a primer on that, but I think it is important that a city management form of government is one by which the day-to-day operation of the management of the city is by a hired, selected city manager. That is the form of government which we have had for, I presume, twenty-five or thirty years and have never recognized in that entire period of time. As most small towns operate, the city manager, of course, is the last person contacted and the first person contacted is whoever you happened to have voted for in the last election and even if you did not vote for them, the person





that you tell you voted for him in the last election. You call them and of course they take care of everything from the potholes to dogs running in the street. That kind of thing is actually supposed to be reserved for the management of the city but, frankly, it is reserved to the city commission in large part in smaller communities, particularly since last I heard we are still without a city manager. I think that the document that we work on from a day-to-day basis, other than our budgetary documents which change on an annual basis, is our code of city ordinances.

I did take an opportunity to look at the code of ordinances very briefly and I am not going to bore you in great detail but I really think it is interesting when one realizes that in a town our size, these are just published ordinances and I think we can disregard the zoning ones, Wallace does, (ROD SMITH IS WALLACE CAIN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW) and proceed from the remaining code of ordinances. I think it is interesting to note that the first real area outside of the administration of the city is alcoholic beverages can be sold. We later have an ordinance on the books which limits your conduct while under the influence of alcohol, making it unlawful in this city to moonshine or to buy moonshine, but you also may not operate in your house a distillery. I think a lot of these are throwbacks. We still have an ordinance which makes it against the law to cuss in public or spit on the sidewalk. We also have what I consider a sexually discriminatory provision which makes it unlawful for a 'female dog' to be running loose in the streets of Alachua. I would tell you that [my attention was] first taken to this because actually the title of Section 530 of the Alachua Code does not say 'female dog.' Naturally, my attention was drawn to that right away. In reading more carefully, it applies solely to the female dog, not to the sur-name you understand, there were some people who thought they had found an enforceable provision against their neighbors.

It is unlawful to kill squirrels in the city and it is unlawful to wound squirrels in the city. Those I understood. It is also unlawful to molest squirrels in the city. I have been practicing criminal law for eight years and I will tell you, I have never run across a squirrel molesting case yet, but should one arise in this jurisdiction, I want you to know you are well protected. It is unlawful to kill, wound or molest birds in the city. Now that the city has expanded to the properties that we now have in our city limits, the bird shoot that was planned for three weeks from now should be a real stand off, with eleven armed city policemen, and half the city set to go dove shooting. Hopefully it will not be the largest battle since Olustee because they are, in fact, in violation of shooting a wild bird in the city limits.

AB: Rod, can we count on you to bring that to their attention then?

RS: No, I am going to be shooting birds that day. I want you to know that our beaches are protected. Chapter Seven of the Alachua Code deals with our beaches and parks and those of you who have been building bonfires at "Alachua Beach" are actually in violation of the statutes.



I would tell you that we do have provisions and these may be sexually discriminatory, but with the failure of the Equal Rights Amendment I think we are still safe that the dressing facilities on the beaches will provide both mens' and womens' facilities. I would point out to you though, and be very careful for your next summer's vacation, that Chapter, Section 7.3, of the Alachua Code provides that "It shall be unlawful to bring dogs, cats, and animals, or other pets on the beaches or parks owned by the city. So those of you who have been walking your cat on Alachua Beach need to be most careful.

We have a section, of course, on bicycles and automobiles, mufflers, and garbage disposal. All these cars that are mounted without tires around town and sitting in yards, all that is in fact, unlawful and we do have provisions to cover it. We have a civil defense section in our law which gives the mayor great powers in case of civil problems. In fact, we can even have a curfew ordered in Alachua. I think that the gambling provision, though, in the past several years has been overlooked. That is Chapter Fourteen, for those of you who are taking careful notes.

The city code deals with the gambling provision. I want to now say on record that the recent money that I lost to Ralph Cellon was an unenforceable debt and I want the money back right now. We have a section for those of you who are so disposed, to read that sort of thing, and I think our offenses and miscellaneous provisions, and these are the last ones I want to leave you with. It is unlawful in the City of Alachua to do a number of things and some of them are common but, I think, several of them are unique. It is unlawful, in the City of Alachua, to use obscene, abusive or profane language. Those of you who have violated that today can turn yourselves in. It is unlawful to be noisy and disorderly in the City of Alachua or to drive fast in the streets of this city. It is unlawful to have an air gun. It is unlawful to shoot a slingshot. It is unlawful, and I find this one particularly rewarding, to throw glass or tacks on the streets of Alachua.

It is unlawful in Alachua, as I mentioned earlier to make moonshine and to have a still, but I want to be sure that we covered all the bases. It is unlawful in Alachua to repair a distillery. So if it breaks, it cannot be fixed. We do have several pages dealing with houses of ill repute in Alachua, which I found interesting reading because, for those of you who do not know what assignation means, that alone was enough to make me read two or three days.

RC: Spell that thing for me.

S: It is of course, unlawful as I mentioned earlier, to write on or deface a public building and it is unlawful and shall be unlawful to spit on any of the sidewalks of the city. Once again there are some restrictions still on the books about how a bell should be rung when a train is approaching. I found those to be helpful



in the way that we handle the vagrants.

I think this will probably be the best point to leave off. If you fall into any of these definitions you are a "vagrant" subject to prosecution. That last one is if you are without visible means of support. On any given day we have had commissioners fall into that and I think the next time a heated meeting starts off, there may be a prosecution.

I want to join Ralph in the disclaimer and also to say I have got tremendous insurance covering all this but I think that if any of you have not taken the time to read the city ordinances, they are provided to you by the city at reasonable cost. They also allow you to read them and we also want to keep one in our city library.

There are on these laws, by the way, some outdated ordinances which I think you will find hilarious, dealing with such pronounced subjects such as the way that you tie and tether your horse. It is very important that if you ride your male horse to town, he is not to be tied next to a female horse in this town. I know that is one of the laws there. That is, in fact, a violation of law so I think that those kinds of things are pretty typical of what makes small towns historically work. Probably ninety per [of laws] cent passed in small towns are not relied on. They are usually passed for a single event, somebody gets mad, in an uproar, that results in a law. Then it is passed on thereafter and we are stuck with lots and lots of ordinances but, most of them have been superseded by common sense. I just find it kind of interesting. If you have any questions, I do not know anything about it and I defer to Blanche Hill.

AB: Rod, why don't you tell us, if you could, how it would be possible to take some of these off if we wanted to?

S: There is a concept in the law of estoppel for when things have not been enforced for a long period of time or have really atrophied in terms of their utility. I think that would really be something that the commission does not need to do. I think that really there are times when, if you have just the wrong situation, it is probably nice to have something you can hold somebody on. But it certainly helps me out from a financial standpoint.

TC: Thanks very much, Rod. It certainly takes all the fun out of living in the City of Alachua. The next person on our list tonight is Rodger Mallard. He is going to talk about some of the strengths and weaknesses in local city government.

M: I do not know why he chose me for that but I like to stand up, too. The Methodists are not going to let the Baptists [Cellon is a Baptist] get the best of them. He asked me to speak on some weaknesses and strengths of the current city government and before I put out a disclaimer, I am not running for public office in April, so everyone can breathe easy.



Starting off I will give you some of the negative aspects, if you can call it negative. It is some observations I made, I think as a citizen, also as an elected official. One Rod talked about earlier was the city manager type of government. We did have what they call strong-type government, with the manager responsible by our charter for the day-to-day operation of the commission and of the city and the commission really is obligated to legislate laws and make rules and regulations concerning the city. I think in recent years maybe the city manager has not been as strong as they should have been. I think the way to correct this is probably occurring at this moment. It is requiring the city manager to have better prerequisites and qualifications for that job.

I think the best things I can say along the lines of city manager type government, is, we need a type of city manager and a type of city commission that will work on day-to-day problems together and communicate. Second, I think of the weakness of the commissioners, because, not too many years ago, it was not taking a lot of your time to be on elected officials in a community this size. You would meet periodically when you had to, and you would get your job done.

But today, given the living that we have, the type of government we have in the city, it takes more than just a commissioner to come to a meeting night. It takes a commissioner who will involve himself in all aspects of the government and will work throughout the week. Really, if you do it right, it is a full-time job and it is really just bad for people who have to make a living elsewhere, because there is more or less no salary being an elected official in the city. It takes a lot out of your personal life. So being an elected official, really, in any city today, especially a city of smaller size where the public is really demanding more of you, is really a disadvantage as far as making a living because, if you do it right you can take forty or fifty hours a week doing things.

I think Evelyn, the current mayor, found out this year that being mayor is more than just a title you wear on your sleeve. Well, today's mayor in any city of any size is the official representative of the city in all its functions. You chair the meetings, you make the committee appointments, and, you represent the commission as a whole at meetings and you become a spokesman for the community. That is very important. I think in years past, as you may know, the smaller you were, the least you were thought of. But now as the population has grown, as citizen involvement has grown, the smaller cities are making news of their own. Some of it is good and some of it is bad, but small cities are being represented better and the reason they are being represented better is because of the citizens demanding better representation from their elected officials.

I was reading a book today, trying to find background about how Alachua is like other cities and it talked about ten small cities





in the United States. In every town that they talked about, they talked about the business people of the communities. That is, the business people who own land or who had employees working their crops or whatever business they were in. They are also the elected officials. They served a purpose and that was good, and it is good for our community as it is good for any of the rest of them. But today's type of government, you not only have these active business people, but you have other concerned, active citizens who are willing to make the sacrifice of being an elected official and serve the public. I think anybody that has been up there can say it is a sacrifice. There is not as much glory as some people think there is.

I think I told Governor Graham last time I saw him at a restaurant in Gainesville, I said I think the best aspect that Alachua County and the City of Alachua have, is its citizens. I think something that all of us are going to have to remember about elected officials is that we collectively, together, make the city. We are the ones who are responsible for what goes on. The citizens are the people who put people in office. The more involved we are, the better the representative will be when it comes to electing officials. I think Buddy Irby will tell you the same of the City of Alachua's voter turn-out record. For a city of this size, it has a pretty good percentage turn-out for all of the representation we are having on our commission.

For a long time everybody up here was home grown, so to speak. Their fathers were here, and their grandfathers were here and so forth. Now that Alachua's growing, it has influence [from] people, it has more of a cross-section, you get more ideas. You get people from outside of Alachua coming in who are still instilled with the Alachua tradition because the community will not let it die, which I think is good. But they also have opinions of their own which I think have helped the city. Evelyn is an example of it. We have people coming here that were not raised here but add a lot to the city. Community involvement is very important. There is a couple of things I want to tell you about as far as the voting process goes. Other than a presidential election in the United States, generally, only six percent of registered voters vote. Where, compared in Australia, they usually run ninety-three to ninety-five per-cent registered voters in an election. Less than one out of thirty people in the United States, who are registered to vote ever have anything to do with the political system. I think Alachua's quite different. Now I will leave you with this quote I read in this book today: "The politician is a person whose politics you do not agree with. If you agree with them, him they call him a statesman." Thank you.

AB: I would like to ask you a couple of questions and maybe some other people in the audience would too. It seems to me that one thing you were saying was there is almost a kind of professionalization taking place. A city manager will have to be somebody with credentials, with training in order to handle the complexity of dealing with the state and dealing with the other



units of government. How do you see the local government here changing in the future? Look into a crystal ball. What sort of people would you imagine would be attracted to local government? What sorts of changes can you see occurring? Should we get rid of the city commission system, because it is so hard for individuals to do?

M: I do not think we should get rid of a lot. No, we have a choice of going to a strong mayor type of government, like Newberry or Waldo has for example, or keeping the existing type government. I think that if the community and the commission itself works with the city manager, whoever he or she may be at the time on a daily basis, and they have good communication, there is no reason why the city manager-type government would not work in the City of Alachua for many years. It is trying to run the city like a small business. You have such a wide variety of responsibilities in operating city government, from electrical distribution to city charters, day to day operations and disclosure laws, everything in the world, and personally, if anything ever goes wrong with the city, it is going to fall on the neck of the city managers, not necessarily the politician or the elected official.

The person who sits in the city manager's position is, first of all, going to have to be educated in the public affairs section, and is going to be on their toes about a variety of things. You have to know something about electrical distribution, about everything from fire rescue to the police, law enforcement, and type of essential service. We have the streets, the water, federal revenue sharing, the state. You have to know when deadlines occur for having reports in things of that nature and you're going to have to pay for what you get. I think when you make prerequisites for any position of this size, you are going to have to pay the person for what you get. Now when you are going to pay someone \$15,000 - \$18,000, you are going to get \$15,000 - \$18,000 worth of work knowledge out of them. If you pay someone \$30,000 - \$35,000 dollars then, and have your prerequisites real high, they have had to have three or four years of public experience in operating government as an assistant city manager or county manager somewhere, then that is what your going to get. It all goes back to paying for what you get. If you demand more of it, that is what you get.

AB: One thing that I have noticed in these forums just in talking with people is that people in Alachua seem to take great pride in being able to call up the mayor or one of the commissioners or someone in city hall and they know that person. They have seen them in Gramma's Restaurant or the Rebel House. They have seen them around town and they have that personal access and that personal bond with them. Is there a way to develop these leadership qualities for the city manager position within the people who live here or will we be going outside to get a city manager?

M: I do not think you will ever take the place of elected officials being called at two o'clock in the morning about a dog barking,



or things of that nature. But it is going to take a different type of person. I think any type of progressive city, of which I think Alachua is, is changing. A city manager is also going to have to be a politician as such because if you do not politic and rub elbows with the public at large and if you do not answer to them, then you sure are not going to have the job very long. You got to be polite. You got to be cordial. Most of all, you got to keep the people informed. If you have something come in, you got to let them know that you are going to work on it, and keep them updated on it.

Also, the most important thing I think in whoever we get for a city manager here is to demand as citizens, I can say that now as a regular old citizen again, that the elected officials work hard to have day-to-day contact with the government and the city manager. If someone called an elected official up, [then,] by charter the city commissioner should go to the city manager and say, "John Smith called up and he said he has got water coming into his yard from the street and he has a hole out in front of it. Look into it and give me a report back." Where, in years past, elected officials would go out on their own and get a hold of the utility director or get a hold of the street supervisor, say "Go swing by John Smith's house and fix it," and the city manager did not know about it until after it was over. Well, that has changed and I think it has changed for the good and I am not knocking anything that has happened in the past. Like I said, the best thing we got going for us is the people out here in this audience, people who elect the officials. That is our best resource and above all, the commission should never forget that because that is where all of it comes from: the people.

TC: Rodger, thank you very much. You have given us some real serious comments dealing with your depth and perception of city government and I think it is something to really think about. At this time, I would like to introduce again, Tommy Langford. Before we got started today, I was just talking to Tommy in this room, and asked him some little anecdotes about the old-time history in the City of Alachua. Like I said to some of you folks who were here for the second and third program, I had been a history teacher at one time and I really enjoyed specializing in local history, all the little stories about who ran this place, and where was the best place to go fishing in town, and all the things like that and Tommy is the type of guy that you really want to get aside some time and really talk to, because, just in the fifteen-twenty minutes that I talked to him I learned more about some of the old-time history in the City of Alachua than I have read in the last two years.

L: Well, there is a lot of you out there who probably remember things better than me like, when the ice plant used to be on the other side of town, on South Main Street and was located across from Enneis Motor Company by the railroad tracks. I can barely remember, when I was a small kid, they used to load ice on boxcars there. The city smoked meat and the old smokehouse is still located down here behind the new ice plant. Which was not



built until about 1954. The city generates their own power. They had two generators located inside the plant. City Hall was also located there and I remember one of the generators. It was powered by diesel and one of the engines had one piston and the other one had two. This was probably the early 1950s. One of them was broke and somehow they could not get the parts to fix one, so that is why they started buying their power from Florida Power.

I do not remember this but I know a lot of you do. Lige Jenkins used to pick up the garbage with a mule and wagon. He told me many times about how he did not have to tell the mule where to stop because the mule knew to stop at every house in the same place. He did not tell me this, but somebody did. They used to keep the mule in a lot in this predominant citizen's residence and she had a milk cow there. The cow got in the way one morning when Lige was trying to hook up the mule to go around town to get the garbage. He got mad or something and picked up this board and knocked the hell out of the cow. You would have to know Lige to appreciate this. He is a very strong individual but he was not very big. But he was an extremely religious person. So the cow went down with its eyes closed Lige did not say nothing for two or three years, but he told it later, how he prayed that cow back to life.

Well, I did not start to work in the city until 1969. I was working down at this ice plant and I got to working with the police officer. I was dispatching, and about that time, they started sending police officers to school to teach you how to be a police officer. So there was a letter come from the University of Florida, they had a police academy over there and Mr. Duke asked me if I wanted to go. I told him yes. So school started some time in January or February and most of the students there were from the University Police Department, City of Gainesville, or the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and they had a roll there. He went to calling roll, so he had them stand up and tell what department they were from so he got on down there to me and he said, "Who in the hell are you?" I had to stand up and tell him I was from the City of Alachua.

But I found out when I got to policing over here that it is not exactly police over here like we were taught to police in Gainesville. They had not heard of the Miranda Warning nor the habeas corpus bill of rights. Chief told me, he says. "Whenever you write one of them tickets, you either turn in \$7.50 or have somebody but in jail." Now that was the truth. A lot of times, this never actually happened when I was there, but I heard them talk about it years before, that if they had a person they had a lot of trouble with lot of times like he might get sixty days or something like that, they would leave the jail door unlocked at night and he would escape, so he would never come back because he knew he might go back to jail. He thinks he escaped.

TC: What kinds of changes, Tommy, have you seen in municipal services now that are provided by the City of Alachua that might have been





different than fifteen or twenty years ago?

- L: Well, as Ralph was talking I remember when he was the judge down there, it was generally \$7.50 or fourteen days. Well, talking about the court system, I know we lost our court system here. I can certainly realize that maybe, in the eyes of the Supreme Court or something, maybe the court system of small towns take care of your little problems better. I do not know. It has been ten years or better since the court system was lost in the small towns.
- AB: 1968. Well, let me ask you just from your experience, what you have heard around, what do you see has changed the court system? What happens when somebody gets in trouble now?
- L: Well, I think that you could keep your local population under control a little better and it might not always have been right in the eyes of the circuit courts, but you had the right to appeal, but I think you had a little better control over the streets.
- TC: If people in the local town could see the court system in their own town working, actually in a nice situation, you get a much more effective discipline and example set for your population. What has happened right there, instead of fifteen or twenty miles away in Gainesville.
- L: It really seemed that way but I do not know how times change. I guess you have a whole profession of judges who are more knowledgeable about the law. Of course in some cases, I do not know if that is better or not.
- S: I was just commenting to Ralph that the problem with the municipal judge system was never if you were from the town. It was if you were not from the town. You know, they make some special adjustment for you then.
- AB: What do you see city services doing in the future?
- L: It does not seem like the city is providing as many services as they used to. Of course they smoked meat, not only the people from this area bring their meat, but word gets around you got the best smokehouse in that part of the country, so it varies from year to year. Some people's meat's salty one year, next year they change the cure. Of course we have a better ambulance service and fire service than we did years ago. I do not think we had the first fire truck here until 1948, that right Mr. Enneis?
- E: The first decent fire truck.
- L: I do not know what they had prior to 1948, but I remember seeing old carts down there when they used to have fires. That was like most all small towns. It was not until about 1948, when we had a real fire truck. I guess they belonged to the fire department.



TC: Tommy, thank you very much. I could sit and talk with you all night about some of the old local history. We appreciate your comments and your insights. Reverend Neil Sherouse is going to address the issue of values in the local government in a city the size of Alachua.

NS: I am going to stand, as well. There are several folks from my congregation here who would not agree with this, but I do talk faster when I stand. Rod, the person responsible for assignation of topics tonight gave you all the fun stuff but I do have a sense of humor. Anyone who has Ralph Cellon as a deacon has to have a sense of humor. The topic assigned me tonight is one that is difficult to address without getting theoretical for a little bit, at least. We, all of us up here, and all of you that have been up here and will be up here and all of you out there bring certain presuppositions into these rooms with you when you come. Into these forums when you come.

One that I bring with me tonight concerning value judgments made by any kind of government, in particular a government the size of our city government is that those value judgments are based on how we define good government. We do not all define good government in the same way. There are probably as many different definitions of a good government in this room tonight as there are individuals but all of us base our judgments and those who are responsible, who sit up here, making decisions for us as a city, I base their value judgments on how they individually and collectively define good government.

I think the definitions that we give to that term "Good government" fall into essentially two categories. One of these categories are those types of definitions that point us to some goal in the distant future. They are Utopian in their direction or in their scope. They are the kinds of definitions of good government that cause us to look forward toward some particular goal or the completion of some goal. Adolf Hitler and his attempt to set up a pure Aryan Race in Germany is a good example of what I am talking about. It was Utopian. Maybe you would not define it that way but it was Utopian in that it was futuristic. He was looking for a specific goal. Now the problem with those kinds of definitions of good government is that the end is justified by the means. In other words, there is no problem doing whatever you need to do to get to where you want to go, to reach that goal. Hitler had no trouble whatsoever annihilating six or seven million Jews. In Japan, the term "civilization" was defined as "everyone acknowledging and staying in his or her slot, recognizing the caste into which they were born and staying there, not rocking the boat, not attempting to climb up or down on the social ladder." Good government in feudal Japan was defined as anything which helped the government to maintain civilization, which helps everybody stay in their niche, you see. That is what I am talking about. Good government then, that Utopian vision, is defined as anything that is necessary or needful to help you achieve that goal.



Now our American Democracy is, I think, another scope. I believe we are another scope. I believe we are what we might call a form of process government. That is the end is not justified by the means because the means is as important as the end. Getting there is as important as being there. Democratizing our nation and the citizens of our nation is as important an object as some goal for an ideal or utopian society far out in the future. I think we define good government, as Americans, in a somewhat different way and from a different perspective than a lot of other people in the world. I think there are a lot of influences that have been brought to bear on how we define government but, at least from my own personal prejudice, I believe the Christian faith is a very dynamic influence because the Christian faith is concerned, not only with getting there but it is concerned with the quality of the journey, with what it takes to get you from here to there. With what you learn and how you grow and are strengthened in the process. You know, we are not, as some have criticized us for being, we are not a "pie in the sky" religion. The great emphasis in Christianity these days is the pilgrimage. Mark Link, who is a Jesuit priest, has defined it in terms of a "journey, and not a destination." Now, I believe that Christian Philosophy, or that theological concept, has really shaped the way we, as Americans, view or form of government, that we are in the process of being democratized.

So, for us, good government is defined as granting personal freedoms to the individual of that nation or community without violating personal freedoms that have ready been granted to others in that nation or that community. Obviously, there are areas of conflict. There are gray areas. There are areas where precisely what I mean by that is very difficult to define. Desegregation is a good example of one of those difficult areas to define because personal freedoms of some had to be sacrificed in order to guarantee personal freedoms of others. Someone had to make the value judgment that those freedoms were worth sacrificing to grant others but in our form of government and in our philosophy of government, the end is unjust if the means are unjust. If you must kill six million people to achieve some ultimate goal, then the goal is no longer just, you see. We define government from a completely different perspective than do those who are in charge of, or who are leaders of, totalitarian forms of government.

But [there are] at least five types of value judgments that our city council must make. One of the type of value judgments is simply determining how much government is necessary. We hear a lot of talk these days about the size of our federal bureaucracy or the size of our government and how cumbersome and inflexible it is becoming because it is getting so large. A government such as ours must determine how much government is in the best interests of its people and how much then becomes too much. How much is necessary to guarantee those personal freedoms and then how much is too much, to the extent that those personal freedoms are being violated by the preponderance of government.



A second area of value judgments that a government such as ours must make, is how can a government such as ours help to preserve those institutions, those ideals, those concepts that we, the people, hold to be sacred, and inviolate. That we hold to be essential to our existence: Family structure and the family unit, freedom of religion and of speech, those other constitutional freedoms. A government such as ours and even a local government must make decisions that determine how those freedoms and how those ideals and concepts will be preserved and will be maintained.

A third area in which government such as ours must make value judgments is in the area of personal conduct by those who govern. I was living in Japan during the Lockheed Scandal. You may remember that several years ago, back in the mid-1970s, and the Japanese were absolutely flabbergasted about why we Americans were so up in arms about our officials taking bribes from Lockheed. To them, you know, that is just part of the job. You get elected to public office so you can take bribes. That was their perspective. But to us, every decision that is made by a person in public life becomes a part of the process. You cannot divorce your personal life as a public servant from the process of government. I am sure anybody who has ever served "back here" [indicates, behind where he is standing in city hall] knows exactly what I am talking about. You are forced to surrender a big segment of your personal life and anything you ever do is brought into "the sunshine" and you know what I mean by that term.

RC: Amen.

NS: A fourth area in which a government such as ours must make value judgments is in that very difficult area of what freedoms must be sacrificed in order to grant or guarantee or secure other freedoms. Someone has to make that judgment, don't they? Someone has to determine that you must give up your piece of property in order that this new superhighway can go through. That your personal freedom must be sacrificed in order that the freedom of the people may better be served. Someone has to make those very difficult decisions. Someone has to determine that democracy and that our system of government is important enough to preserve, to deny individuals in our country their personal freedom to decide whether or not they want to go to war and institute a draft. You see, someone has to make those very difficult decisions. Sometimes they decide for the right. Sometimes they do not do such a hot job. Now, a final area in which government such as ours must make value judgments is in that area which relates to the use and abuse of power. Power in our form of government is a trust. It is given to those who rule by we who are governed. From studying history, there have been times and there still remain, in places in the world, places where the divine right of kings was unquestioned. A person ruled because he or she claimed they had divine right to do so. Those who govern us do so because we have given them the right to do





so. That is a trust which is given and can be taken back. Those who serve us must make critical decisions in that area of how they use their power or how they may perhaps choose to abuse it. That decision really is conditional, at least from our perspective, upon whether those decisions are made to safeguard our freedom or to violate our freedom. I will stop at that point without getting more specific.

AB: Neil, let me ask you to get a little specific. We have heard these general ideas about controlling conducts and freedoms and sacrifices and so forth. You have lived and grown up in, a town near here as I recall. How would you characterize the uniqueness of Alachua's values in terms of government, compared to some other towns around? Let's stop for a minute and think what might be unique about Alachua's values. [Do] we like a lot of government here?

NS: I am not trying to evade the question, but I would be more interested in hearing how some of these folks might answer your question.

AB: One thing we are trying to get at is what makes Alachua, "Alachua?" What makes it different than other small towns, what makes it different than New York City and Japan and Gainesville? I, for one, would like to hear some ideas from people in the audience about how they see the government here as different maybe than another place they have lived or worked or where they work now. Nobody answers, I am going to call on Mr. Cain back there because he has not had a chance to answer.

NS: Would someone else on the panel?

P: Well, I will tell you we have got much more government now in the City of Alachua than we have ever had before.

AB: But it seems to me, as Tommy was saying before we had the ice plant and the smoking meat and all kinds of things.

P: Oh, yes! Services were rendered but you did not have as much administration and government. You could run the city on a couple of hundred dollars a month back in those days.

AB: You are talking about the size of the people working for the government?

P: Yes. The working force because, personally, I am very critical of our government and the payrolls it has. Not only in the City of Alachua, but nation-wide. I do not know that much about the City of Alachua's payroll because I am probably negligent in not paying attention to it, but I have not. But, as a whole, we are over-governed in my opinion.

AB: Now I heard other people say that the nice thing about a local government is that it does things which individuals cannot do by themselves. We really need those services?



P: Well, we used to do a lot of that. I do not know whether we could do that much now or not.

AB: Somebody else? Anyone on the panel? Mr. Williams?

W: We talk about the local government. Any local government can or will do as much as the citizenry dictates. Now, you want the government to do a little bit, then the government does a little bit. But let us say, with Alachua, as large as it is, presently, acreage-wise, you see, we have expanded. All right, you need broader services: streets, lights, water, sewerage, etc. You see, you cannot talk about what was Alachua ten or fifteen years ago. You got to look at Alachua today. It is hard enough to take or plan where Alachua will be ten, fifteen, or twenty years from now. So if this is the case, then the citizenry will want more services and better services. It takes money. It takes employees, people who know what they are doing, this sort of things.

AB: So the increase in the size of the town, this creates the need for more professional people who can provide those services?

H: What Marion is speaking to is that in years past when the town was small and they were able to render services with fewer people and on a less costly basis, and today we have big brothers watching us, we have a lot of services, human services, human rights, and God knows the people need to be looked after, we have more people in the world but, by the same token, fewer and fewer people are paying the freight in order for government to operate. I think that is what you are speaking to, isn't it Marion?

P: Yes.

H: As an auditor from the state, I am sure that he knew how few people even back then, paid taxes as opposed to those who used the services. As an example, the \$25,000 homestead exemption totally wiped out a broad base right here in Alachua which then imposed a burden on the balance of the taxpayers. So, even fewer people are paying taxes. On top of that, they impose higher gas, liquor, every tax on tax and we are paying taxes on taxes now.

WC: We are going to see Marion at our next commission meeting, right? If you think this is a small crowd, you should see our commission meeting. We cannot even get a quorum.

S: I think there is a point kind of interestingly brought out by the attendance in this room. That is demographical, or speaking about voter behavior, participation, the participation and the interest in the government is much higher among the people fifty-five years and older, if you will, the World War Two crowd. Secondly, among the group that is immediately behind them, and as you work down, the level of participation and interest in government, and in reverse, the level of disinterest and lack of participation in government, it gets much higher. There is a lot



of reasons that the experts throw back to that. In the 1960s and the early 1970s. But I think one of the most frightening things about participation in government, and whether or not government is, in fact responsive to or reflective of the majority will, is not only that you have such a small group of people participating but also, frightening fact that a number of those persons who have traditionally been considered to be the "work base of the country" are the lowest participants, or among the lowest participants in government. That, really is more of a national problem, I guess, than it is a local problem. But it certainly is a local problem too. If you look at this room, I would not want to ask how many of these people are this side of thirty, but there would not be a big crowd so, that is a real problem. We have a national consciousness that, for some reason, young people are not interested in or attracted to government. I must have appealed to that class of people in my race. (REFERS TO ROD SMITH'S UNSUCCESSFUL BID FOR A COUNTY COMMISSION SEAT THE PREVIOUS YEAR)

JB: I have lived in Alachua for eight years and [it was] only about four years ago that the commission started having evening meetings at seven-thirty where the public could come. I know I, for one, started coming to those meetings because I was one person pushing for evening meetings and I thought we had a good crowd but I think a lot of people quit coming, and this was not always a fact, and I do not mean to be negative, but the public would try to have input and voice our opinions and feel like we might have support from a commissioner and then they would turn around and vote totally against what the majority of the people here would want. I know I have sat through meetings where I have felt real positive about a lot of those things and I finally decided to quit coming. I mean, I had four children and I had other things I could do with my time if they were not going to listen to what we had to say.

NS: Judy, I think what you have done is pointed to the symptom, but I believe there must be something underlying your perceptions. What do you feel were the reasons in the minds of the commission five years ago. What do you feel, though, were the reasons perhaps the values, on which the commission say, at that time was voting in opposition to what you perceived to be public opinion? In other words what were the values that were influencing their vote?

JB: I really hate to get into that.

NS: Let me put it in theoretical terms.

JB: It is something that is in the past now, you know, but that, I think a lot of people quite coming. I mean during these public hearings on annexation and on different issues, and then the commission would turn around and totally vote against the majority of the people. I have seen this room crowded.

S: That is a difficult point, though, to say that "I have seen this



room crowded and the majority expressed in this room would constitute the majority." I mean, when you are an elected official I think you have got to be very mindful that you can come up with sixty-five people and have them voice themselves one after another on any given issue and it is going to seem like a landslide of opinion favors that issue when, in fact, it may be the only sixty-five people on earth who hold that viewpoint. I hate to say this, but I hope there is no commissioner who would ever believe that the voices they hear reflected in public meetings are necessarily the will of the people because the will of the people may be, in fact, completely opposite from that voice. I mean, you can probably pack any given building on any given issue. I do not mean to say that we should not participate, but I think that is a dangerous bellwether of what public opinion, is. If we happen to have ten people who stand up and say "I think we ought to have Alachua Beach."

JB: Right.

M: Same thing is probably true at the Rebel House or the Wayfarer or anywhere else. You got to realize the elected officials, people who go to restaurants and it is called restaurant politics, may not show the same view as the people who come to the public forums. So, elected officials kind of have to balance this thing out and what really irks me as an elected official is that I, in order to know how the public felt, had to call on the public to actually find out what in the heck they wanted, or how they felt about things. Unless they were hot under the collar about any particular issue, you never heard from them. But something really important came up, you had to almost solicit their information to get some feedback from them.

TC: I would like to stop right here the discussion and get back to it. I would like to get our last panelist's point of view. Mrs. Blanche Hill has very graciously agreed to give us her perception of what vision she has for the City of Alachua in the next few years. I really hate to stifle good discussion which just gets going but, she may have, in her presentation something that is very relevant to the issues we are discussing. After she gets done with her presentation, I would very much like to get back in to the discussion that we had and Mr. Williams will be the next one to ask a question when we get back. Okay

BH: First of all, I was hoping you would omit this part and just continue. I have started to say, well gee! I am sort of at a standstill. I used to be in the minority in one group. [When] I found that I was in the minority twice, I thought about taking off. Well, ERA says that we can go ahead and try. I think we are very proud of the progress and growth I have been able to see which is beginning to happen here in Alachua and the things that I encourage did happen here as I have been attending the panels and listening tonight. Of course, I know with any city, growth is expected and we in Alachua expect more growth, too. Somebody said when we were talking about the growth we are also talking about who is going to pay for it. But we really burden ourselves





with other things in as much as we are going to be paying for things. We certainly, I think, would like to be paying for some of the things that the majority of the people would like to have.

Starting off, being a member of the library board, I guess this is my top priority, we are trying very hard to get a library started here in the City of Alachua. I think you know the history of that is we were donated the trailer by Hipp Construction Company and actually, we have done wonders with it, but there is a lot more that needs to be done. We need a bigger building, we need a location, we need more participation and there is just so much more that we can do with the library, there is so much needed here in the city of Alachua. I think some time maybe for those of us who have transportation and they cannot always run to Gainesville or somewhere else and get the things that they would like to have, even as much as a book. So I think our library should really be pushed as much as we possibly can and try to have a real library, as far as a building's concerned, here - in Alachua.

The city limits boundaries, I think, is the thing we talked about and probably discussed in all a number of ways but, if it is possible to do it, and I am sure it is, I think the government ought to look at the boundaries of our city limits. They sort of go around corners and back in curves and everywhere and it is hard to really say just where the city limits are. It is really disgusting when you are on one side of the street and you expected to pay for city services and your neighbor lives across the street from you and your front door, and they say "I do not have to do that because I am not in the city limits." It makes you feel like something is wrong here. We have this right here, right in town. There is one side of the street in the city and the other side of the street is not in the city. I think that is one thing that we would like to see if we can do something about those things.

We spent money, I guess, about four or five years ago trying to get, drainage, sewage pipes, and what have you. I think some of the money, I would say, has been basically just laying there. Some of the drainage system that was put in are not serving the purposes for which I thought they were designed to do. We have the drainage system but we still have water circling around the drainage system and going in the street as it was doing before we got the drainage system. I think that is one thing that the government needs to look into. You know, we got them there, so why waste the money? Let's fix them so they can serve as they should be. This is just a little pet peeve of mine.

I am glad when I am asked to use my personal opinions. I do not know anything about what I am talking about. This is my personal opinion. I think we have really grown having two drugstores here in town. For many years we only had one, a very good one, but we only had one. We now have a laundry which I never thought we would be able to get, a washerette and those kinds of things that you have. I think we have the finest grocery stores. But it is



rather disgusting when you got to go to Gainesville, almost, for a pair of stockings. I would like to see, and I think maybe speaking for one or two others, some type of department store. A store or stores here in the City of Alachua. We, again, forget about the people without transportation and I am sure that it would be a pleasure to be able to go down and buy some very simple things that you sometimes have to go into Gainesville or High Springs to get, and you could do it right here.

Have the money of course, too, to circulate in our city which would help some with expense. We started out, some years ago, naming the streets of Alachua and putting the numbers on houses. That project sort of took off real fast and stopped just as quickly. Some place along the line like those houses next to you got a number and one of them did not get numbers. I have called and came down a couple of times and I was told that the numbers had all been issued and they were in the process of ordering some more. That was what I was told and I can go and buy a number from the ten-cent store but I do not know what my number should be. I think we would certainly like to have this worked on.

Another thing, I know in the planning I do not know how it came about and was not a part of that and perhaps it was discussed at public sunshine opening. In the plan of constructing our newest post office, the location has always been somewhat kind of amazing because it is like you really do not want to go to the post office after sunset. If you do not go between nine in the morning and like five in the afternoon, you have got to think about not going to the post office. To me it is sort of an isolated place and the light is just not very good at night. It is just not inviting to want to go to the post office in the afternoon. Now, I thought perhaps when it was planned that there would be some other things that would be put in that vicinity. That, of course, would make our post office an outstanding place, everybody could walk in when they felt the need. As it is now, I do not know if there are some plans being made to do something about that, but it has been this way since we have had it.

It would be nice to have a designated Greyhound Bus Stop some place in the city. It is an embarrassment to get on the bus and ask the driver to put you off someplace, on Highway 441. I have been riding the bus, last summer especially, going through big cities they have Seven-Elevens as bus stops. Seems like many of the bus stations have been done away with but they do have a bus stop and they have a Greyhound Bus sign up there and you know, the driver knows where he is going to go and you know where to go to take the bus. I think we could do this without so much expense here in Alachua, have a designated bus stop for those of us who might be riding the bus.

A bi-racial committee to the advisory boards I think might be helpful. As you said, we do not always get the thinking from the community from those persons who are present because the persons who are present are there for whatever interest they might be at that particular meeting. I think sometimes we feel we need



somebody to go out and sort of feel out those persons who are not going to ever get to attend a meeting. But if you had someone to go out and bring in the thoughts and the wishes of those persons who are not going to attend but still, they do make up your community and you do have to consider them too. I think a bi-racial committee as an advisory board might help in this issue.

I think we need more supervised recreation centers for young people in our city. I know we got a park which is very good for the small kids and we got ball diamonds which cater more to, I would think, perhaps adults and the older kids. But the ones who are coming in the middle, teenagers, our kids that we are concerned with. I think we need some place that we can feel safe and satisfied that once they enter this place, that they have the protection that teenagers ought to have and that they are not going to be harassed by some person who should not be there. Neither are they going to be exposed to some things that should not be going on there. I do not think we have any kind of designated area for our young people. Therefore, I think we are putting them in more danger of traveling out of town and going different places because they are going to look for recreation. They are going to find it some place, and I think we should try to provide some of their wholesome recreation and a place for it in our city. We need more paved streets. In fact, if they are paved, we certainly need them to be streets. I believe we still got some of those wagon trails that are still being used. In fact, they go right up to people's houses and it is kinda hard to get there. Try it, once it rains, and you will say "I will not go today." So I think we need to think about those streets that are certainly within the city limits that are not desirable to even try traveling on now. You certainly would try walking.

Along with that, we need more lighting in the community. In the residential part of the city, some more lighting in that area. Downtown, we need to either think of demolition of those empty buildings that we have there or fix them up. We have, I think, some nice places downtown now. But when you get there and you start to get out, and you take a look over your shoulder to where those buildings are empty and they are kind of like, open, and it is just not a very good feeling to have to get out there in all this empty, unprotected kind of dreary-looking places.

Another thing, our Christmas decorations goes all the way down past the traffic light and I believe it is past the other post office, the earlier one and the decoration is beautiful but when we bring in the TV cameras and we look back on television and we see the City of Alachua and we see all our pretty Christmas decorations and there is nothing there, just a closed building. This kind of took away from really, the beauty of our city. So I think we really could do something about those empty buildings that we have in the downtown area. Last, I just added this after I heard Rod talking about this book which I wish I could have read, but it seems like we need a committee to update the city code ordinances which concerns the beaches.



- TC: Mrs. Hill, thank you very much. I would be curious as to where the beach was.
- AB: She is suggesting that we need a city commission that will bring the beach to Alachua. I want to thank Mrs. Hill for a tremendous list of ideas for the city council. I think we have enough ideas there to last well into the twenty-first century. I am very interested in all those. Why don't we open it back up to the floor again, with some of these issues of lighting, issues of transportation, issues of places for young people to go, and how we can best deal with these things.
- JB: I know two years ago, the county did send a bus out here for a period of two or three months on a trial run for people who lived in High Springs to come and I think it was arranged with the city where they parked their cars now where the city park is, and ride the bus to work in Gainesville. They were doing it, and I was wondering when I rode it home one day and I did not know where I was. So there have been some efforts and I do not think the City of Alachua, per se, has the money in our coffers, pockets, to come up with the transportation system. Hopefully, maybe the City of Gainesville can. But I know it is a problem. To get a mini-bus, something like that. It has been tried in the past.
- U: I think what Ms. Hill was suggesting was just a plain, old bus-stop.
- JB: There are people who you know do not have transportation to Shands or clinics or things like that. I work for a social service agency. We are really having to depend on people in the communities to bring these people in and the people who are bringing these people in are charging them enormous fees.
- RS: But the difficulty is that almost no place in the United States, certainly no place in the State of Florida, including Miami and Tampa which are having disasters, could afford transit. I think that if Miami cannot afford transit, Evelyn would be hard-pressed to justify it in Alachua.
- JB: Well, that is a point.
- TC: I think there is one possible solution there and that there is always the possibility of the city commission or a committee getting together with RTS, and asking them to see if there is not a possibility of working out some type of a compromise and providing a mini-bus and leaving here at seven o'clock, ten o'clock, or whatever.
- JB: There is a mini bus system but they only have about ten customers and they are totally new, I think coming out from High Springs, Alachua, to rural areas.
- AB: I think Judy has a good point and, my wife works for a social service agency also, and the price people charge to pick up people in a rural area to bring them to Shands or wherever,





really is exorbitant and that is taxpayers' money that is really being spent not very wisely.

S: Seems like there is a lot of those kinds of functions that we now relegate to government that used to be relegated to neighbors and churches.

H: I would like to respond on behalf of government. The wheels of government surely turn slowly but we have answered some of the problems. Recently, and hopefully we will answer more in the next few years but we do have a bi-racial committee. It was just expanded to put Mr. Ozell Williams on it as an ad hoc committee member. The chairman is Cleather Hathcock's wife, Joyce. These were all volunteers. They volunteered to be on the board and they govern themselves but they are advisors to the commission.

One thing that we are hopeful of doing that I plan to propose to the commission at the request of the community action committee is that when we decided to give up our secretary, commission secretary who worked part-time in order to have a full-time recreation director, that left us with a small but adequate, vacant office that commissioners used to use. Now they have another, little bit larger, inside the gate, but this is outside and we are petitioning that the county and the state staff this for us with services from Community Action, Child Abuse, Food Stamps, and Welfare. They offer these services to the people of Alachua, but they have to go to Gainesville and over on Waldo Road for most places and so we have asked them to help us. We will supply the building or the office space if they will man it. That will give any one the social agencies five days to work out a compromise of when they are going to use it and the thirty days in the month. So I think that this will answer a lot of problems of the people that live right here in Alachua and could possibly serve the outlying areas, too, with no cost, really, to the citizens.

As far as downtown is concerned, if you have been downtown today, you will see we have a nice, beautiful lot right across the street from the police department where the city has started cleaning up Main Street we have applied for a million dollar grant to the Redevelopment Commission and Mr. Smith is chairman of that committee and they are all, not appointed by the commission, but appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and are comprised of people that are in business here and are putting their money into Alachua. There has been a lot of subtle changes in Alachua that, if you are not really involved in doing business or in transportation or social services, then you possibly might not know that they are going on, but they are here, and they are available and, hopefully, we will get a little more publicity on it so the people will know that the commission really is working.

Before I shut up, there is one thing I would like to do. I would like to introduce this young man that is with me. Would you stand up? Kevin Hall. He is here because he is working on his badge in citizenship in the community for Scouts. So that is why



he is visiting with us tonight. Also, I want you to look at our first Miss Alachua. She is so beautiful. Stand up and let them see how gorgeous you are. She has added so many titles since she became our first Miss Alachua and she is closing out her year and October the 8th we will be having our Second Annual Miss Alachua Pageant - we invite you all to come - and she will be crowning the second queen, but she will always be our first. (APPLAUSE FOR MISS ALACHUA, Amanda Hipp) Thank you.

RC: May I make one other point that has been made here by Rod and Rodger but I think might be worth re-emphasizing a little, having sat up here and served as a public officer in different capacities, one of the problems is that we lose sight of, as Judy was alluding to a little bit, is that we, and I do not want this to sound like a civic lesson, but we have a republic form of government which means, in effect, that we elect people to represent us. Now we ought to elect good people to represent us that will make wise decisions based on hearing all the facts but that will be done under those kinds of conditions and circumstances, and not with some packed house that, that thirty-eight folks are ranting and raving in one direction and two, maybe on this side. But right might be on the side of those thirty-eight people - or one of those two people - who make your wishes known to your elected representatives. But you do not elect people to take a poll on issues. You elect people to make good, sound judgments on issues. Our best job, our biggest job, our most important job, is electing and working for the election of competent folks.

TC: That is a good civic lesson, by the way. Truthfully.

MH: Let me add something to that. Once we have elected our officials and they are in office, we can work with them and assist them instead of trying to do battle with them each week. We serve ourselves better that way, once they are elected they are representing us and, you might not like the mayor or one commissioner but he is your mayor and he is, or she is, your commissioner. For a year or two years, and we are only hurting ourselves.

TC: Thank you. At this point in time, we would like to introduce again Buddy Irby, and ask him to share with us his lesson from history.

M: Must of been when he had hair.

I: There is a story I told last night. I did not want to bore him. But being in elected office I happen to be full-time, is a little bit different but still, I can tell you it's not the easiest way to make a living. I certainly respect any person who is willing to give of their time and their energy and their talents to serve in office. Let me give you two quick examples about the type things that happen, because when I first started to run in 1976 people that I valued their judgments and their wisdom, would say "Buddy, why do you want to get in that mess?" I would say, going



on what Mr. Cellon said, "Because if good people do not run, you know, then good people will not be elected and our government's going to go down the tubes." So I felt it important to make sure that what I felt like, myself being a good person, I should offer myself for public office.

Well, if you go along and do the best you can and then you are riding down the road one day and you go past a cemetery and you see a tombstone out there that says "Here lies a politician and an honest man." You know, I was thinking about that and the guy riding with me, and I said, "You know, after my time's over, I would kind of like to end that way." I asked the guy "Did you see that tombstone?" He said, "Yes I did. Isn't that kind of odd?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said: "Two people buried in one grave."

A couple years ago my son was born and I went to the mayor of Gainesville, was talking to him, he says "Buddy, that child looks exactly like you and that is the best looking young man I have ever seen. However, that is not to say that you are good looking, it is just that pink and bald looks good on babies." I certainly want to tell you that I am glad to be here tonight. I do not know if any of our county commissioners have attended but, on behalf of the county government, I salute the city for having this program. I think that looking back and looking forward is just so important to our future and we have some problems. We have some big problems locally, county, state, national, world - wide, and the way to solve that is keep electing good people and to not step aside.

Some of you here, I know have worked with me on voter registration drives know that I believe that we should go out where people work and shop and all and register voters and, at the same time, everyday, seems like somebody calls me and says, "We should do more to make people register to vote." At some point it has got to stop because if you have to force a person to register, they are not going to take the time to study the candidates, attend the forum, attend the commission meeting, become informed ballot. That is really what makes the government work: An informed ballot on election day. They say "Well, you have got to make it easier." I turn around and I say let's look at it this way: In Alachua County every day of the week, except Sunday, you can register to vote. You can register at any city hall in this county, you can register at the Oaks Mall, you can register at the courthouse. You have got a number of places to register and yet people say it is hard to get registered. Then I turn around and say, "How many places are there to get a marriage license? Only one. How many places are there to get a driver's license? There is only two. People seem to make it there. Then I say, how many Florida Fields are there? I guarantee you Saturday, 70,000 people make it to Florida Field. They are going to find a place to park, they are going to be glad to be there. They will sit in the rain. It is commitment, it is priority, right now it seems that too many people think that football, and I love football, do not get me wrong. But I vote every time,



too. It is more important than maybe participating in their government. Now, I kind of disagree with that and I hope that this can be a new beginning, here in Alachua, of getting the voter registration even up higher. You happen to be one of my biggest precincts now. Continue to have good turn-outs here in both local, county and our state elections. Next year is going to be an exciting election. I can make a little speech on that but I will not, but I do want to bring you one quick thing and that is, I went to our archives there in the elections office and I got the oldest book I could find which, Mrs. Cauthen, I do not believe you even taught folks how to write like this. When they sign up the voters on election day - this is from 1878 to 1884; it is a hundred years old. I want to be careful with it. (SHOWS ORIGINAL LIST OF VOTERS)

S: It is in pretty good shape, was in good shape.

I: Anyway, it really is interesting to read inside. I sat down today, for a few minutes and went through and typed-up a list of the voters who were registered in precinct three which is Alachua and it was then and I am going to give this to you. I cannot leave the books so I just got the names of the people that were here then. I think it is interesting and some of you would recognize more than, I know I recognize. The Stephens and the Catos and some of the others that have meant a lot to this community, that, they are all here and they have been here for a hundred years or more. I would like to say to you, Ms. Hill, that on this particular list there is no women so we did not get around in the United States to registering women to vote until 1920. Florida did not ratify the nineteenth Amendment until fifty years after the rest of the nation ratified it but I want you to know that I care about you because.....I look at the rolls today, I know there is more women registered to vote in Alachua County than there are men. So, you are important to me. But I want to leave this with you as a document to add to the library. Maybe some day, some time, someone will find it interesting.

But I know a lot of you here work with us in elections for registering poll workers. I have not attended all of these but my right arm, Richard Bryan, and his parents here tonight, attended the first one I know, and I have read about the others. I would like to just say that one thing from last week, since I was not here and I read the paper on discipline in the schools. In my family, we did not have that problem because the principal was my father and, if you know my father, you know he did not need a note nor a witness when I went to his office. There was not much talking and a lot of action. But anyway, that is what made my hair fall out, but I have enjoyed being here..... I want to leave this with you /LIST OF OLD VOTERS COMPILED BY HIM/ as I said and salute you for this program. You have got a great community. I know I am proud of the heritage that I have here from grandparents. It means a lot to me to know you are still keeping that spirit. So I have enjoyed being with you and I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you very much.





AB: Let me take a couple minutes to summarize a few things and maybe invite some more comments with my summary as well. I have noticed several themes running through our discussion. I think they are important to our local government in many ways, something to think about. I think the first of them we have seen, and been blessed with, is a sense of humor. I think that has probably been something that has been with local government here in Alachua for a long time and I have to ask Mr. Cellon, who is my senior to comment on the sense of humor in the old days but I am sure it was here and I think that is important and I was thinking up here while people were talking what does make Alachua unique? Maybe the fights and the anger and the disagreement, but that always tempered with a good sense of humor is something that makes Alachua, Alachua. I think that is a very good part of the city itself.

Another thing Rod brought up, and several other people brought up as well is the young people, the leadership. We are seeing the city change to a very professional oriented city, a city where the city manager will have to have credentials, will have to be a professional person. We are seeing people taking over different parts of the city who have great training and great background and yet we are faced with the fact that a lot of our young people in Alachua do not participate. They do not seem to find ways to interact with the city. They find it hard to come to a commission meeting. If they interact with the city, it is through the police department maybe, or something that is not always the most positive way and Ms. Hill also mentioned the park facilities. I think that is something about Alachua we need to face in the future, is how do we use our own young people and develop leadership qualities in them? Not just for the elected positions but for the other positions in the city as well, because I think as young people do participate in different areas, at many different levels, they will take more interest in the government and in the continuity of the government.

I think there is something going on in Alachua here that could be seen in almost any small town. There is a pull toward the super-highways, toward the airport, toward the Oaks Mall Shopping centers, towards Atlanta, towards big cities and its pulling a lot of the heart out of the local government in the local town because it is pulling people away at night, it's pulling people away from jobs here to jobs there, it is changing the city and yet that, those same changes are also the source of growth because we are also seeing Alachua being a very pleasant place for people to move and live, but will they take part in Alachua or will they continue to go to Oaks Mall, continue to go to Atlanta, continue to go to Miami, for their entertainment, for their livelihood? So I think we are faced in the government of Alachua with somehow incorporating more of these people into the town but being sure that they become part of the town, that they have a sense of community, that they have a sense of what the town is all about, otherwise, we are faced in the future in Alachua with professional government governing people who use the town as a bedroom community and who do not put themselves into



it. I think when I hear things about local government in Alachua here, I am also listening to different segments of the community.

This is obviously a community with lots of different kinds of people. There are young people, there are new people, and there are blacks, there are whites, there are differences within each of those groups too numerous to mention. There are people of many different occupations and I think Alachua has a challenge that somehow out of that diversity, gain strength and not let that diversity tear it apart but, rather, use that diversity to better the governed, to better the town. But it is certainly a challenge I see in the future. I do not think the diversity, I do not think the differences people have, are going to decrease. I think, in the future, that the government will see just as much controversy, probably more, because there are more different kinds of people moving in here, people having different ideas about what government should be. Well, let me stop there and ask if there is any other comments or questions from the audience that we did not get around to.

JB: I just want to mention that the children, young adults in this community, we have not heard them but I believe it was the children from Mebane who came to the commission and got the first library. I also think there were students from Santa Fe that came to get permission to use the park during lunch. I think the students do come before the commission.

AB: Well, and we have been faced here. I mean, obviously the room is not crowded with young people but there have been.



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